



**UrbanArt Commission
Public Art Oversight Committee
Wednesday, August 9, 2023 – 1 pm**

In attendance: Jen Prudhome Booker, Yvonne Jones, Nefertiti Orrin, Kate Roberts, Eso Tolson, Mario Walker; UAC Staff: Richard Echols, Lauren Kennedy, Mallory Key, Kayla J. Smith, Travis Washington

Kennedy opens the August 2023 PAOC meeting and extends a special welcome to the newest PAOC committee member, Jen Prudhome Booker. Kennedy reviews that the Public Art Oversight Committee is comprised of seven members, three appointed by the mayor's office and approved by city council, three appointed by city council, and one UrbanArt Commission board member approved by the board chair. Nefertiti Orrin, the UAC board chair, thanks Booker for joining and asks her to introduce herself to the committee. Booker expresses her enthusiasm as an arts advocate and shares that she is currently a digital site experience senior manager at AutoZone.

APPROVALS

I. July 2023 Minutes

Kennedy asks for questions, comments, or changes to the July 2023 minutes before asking for a motion to approve. Orrin moves, Tolson seconds, and the minutes are unanimously approved.

II. Deaccession of Gooch Park Mural

Kennedy reviews that the existing Gooch Park mural is an old project in poor condition that the original artist was not interested in touching up, so UAC in conversation with Parks recommended commissioning a new project from available maintenance funding. Jamond Bullock had recently completed a mural there through grant funding and was directly commissioned to extend his mural to this wall. Kennedy states that the contract and funding have already been approved by PAOC, but the old project must be removed from the city's inventory. She asks for a motion to approve the deaccession of the existing Gooch Park mural. Roberts moves, Orrin seconds, and the motion is approved.

III. City of Memphis Program Guidelines Revisions

Kennedy recaps the suggested edits to the City of Memphis program guidelines that were shared via email with PAOC, explaining that the guidelines have not been updated since the percent-for-art program was established in 2002 and need to reflect the ordinance changes from

January 2018. She notes that she received guidance from City legal that these amendments will not have to go through formal council review and can be approved by PAOC. Kennedy highlights the following suggested edits: amending the definition of local artist, updating how PAOC members are appointed, and updating the process of appropriating/encumbering new Capital Improvement Program funds. First, Kennedy suggests changing the *local* artist definition from someone who has lived in Memphis for at least five years to any current permanent resident. Next, she details the makeup of PAOC previously mentioned, calling out the 2018 amendment that the mayor's office appoints three PAOC members approved by city council, city council appoints three members, and UAC appoints one board member. Then, she reviews that upon approval by the Council of the recommended Public Art Allocations in the Annual Public Art Plan, the UAC staff will submit a resolution to the Council to appropriate Public Art Allocations to the Public Art Fund. Additionally, she details the requirement that sixty percent of the artwork created with percent-for-art funds must be accomplished by local artists stating that over ninety percent of current UAC contracts are going to local artists. Kennedy summarizes those as being the main changes from the original guidelines and asks for questions or comments before seeking approval. Tolson moves, Roberts seconds, and the updated guidelines are approved. Kennedy states that she will send the revised guidelines to everyone via email.

IV. Orange Mound Direct Commission and Additional Selection Committee Members

Smith reviews that a sculpture will be created for Orange Mound and installed at the intersection of Park and Airways. She reminds PAOC that this project had already been established by the neighborhood with the Metal Museum, and UAC was brought in to facilitate the process. She presents a site image and lists additional neighborhood representatives to add to the selection committee who were previously supporting the initiative. Orrin asks if this project is through Accelerate Memphis, and Smith confirms. Orrin shares that she recognizes several selection committee members from the neighborhood who are dedicated to Orange Mound. Smith asks for a motion to approve both the direct commission for the Metal Museum and the amended selection committee. Orrin moves, Roberts seconds, and the motions are approved.

V. NAI Selection Committee

Smith presents the selection committee for a new round of Neighborhood Art Initiative project applications. She explains that this program supports neighborhoods and their creative visions, and this first selection committee will support the application process and determine which neighborhoods move forward. Then, UAC will assist each neighborhood in forming its own selection committee for its specific projects. She lists the members and their connections to previous projects or interest in working with UAC. Smith asks for a motion to approve. Orrin moves, Jones seconds, and the selection committee is approved.

VI. Liberty Park Artist Selection

Smith presents Allie Mounce and Anthony Lee's mural proposal selected for Liberty Park. She shares that the selection committee liked how the artist team used the branding colors and featured sports, events, and an homage to Liberty Land in the design for two painted murals and vinyl window clings. Smith also notes the selection committee's initial feedback to change out some of the prominent wrestling figures with more sports centered images. Smith asks for questions or comments, and Roberts clarifies that the selection committee will be asking for revisions to the design. Smith confirms adding that today's approval is just for the artist selection and the next approval will be for the schematic design. Booker comments that

Randy Savage is the only distinguishable figure and asks if the artists provided any feedback around this. Smith replies that while the artist team only shared that they were paying homage to Memphis wrestlers, the selection committee had the same comment and would like the figure to be more abstract and less front and center in the design. Booker agrees, and Smith makes note to pass PAOC feedback to the artists. Smith asks for additional questions or comments. Orrin clarifies that PAOC is approving the finalists, and Smith confirms. She then asks for a motion to approve Allie Mounce and Anthony Lee as the selected artists for the murals at Liberty Park Memphis Sports and Events Center. Orrin motions to approve, Robert seconds, and the artist selection is approved.

VII. Hospitality Hub- Hope Hudson- Final Acceptance

Echols reviews that three artists have been selected to create trauma-informed work for three rooms in the Hospitality Hub womens' shelter; Hope Hudson created a quilted piece for the family room and is seeking final acceptance of her work. Echols adds that the artists' timelines have varied, and Taropop should be installing in the dining room next month while Lisa Williamson reaches the 50% fabrication benchmark. Echols asks for questions or comments. Jones shares that she saw the Hospitality Hub on the news and asks if the quilt was created by a resident. Echols replies that Hope Hudson was a selected artist and echoes Jones enthusiasm for the space saying that the quilt complements the decor in the family room space nicely. Booker suggests including a reference image of the space as a way for PAOC to better contextualize the work and provide feedback. Echols clarifies that the image of the work installed is up close to provide proof of installation and that more context was provided at previous meetings with the proposals. He offers to include those photos of the space in the next PAOC communication and encourages everyone to check out the impressive facility, noting that the Hub offers tours and UAC will plan a dedication there once all pieces are installed. Orrin asks for clarification around what this approval does for the artist. Echols confirms that it allows the artist to receive her final payment, and Kennedy adds that the work is also added to the City of Memphis public art inventory for insurance purposes. Roberts shares her excitement about the piece and motions to approve final acceptance. Jones seconds, and the motion is approved.

UPDATES

VIII. Hospitality Hub- Lisa Williamson- 50% Fabrication

Echols shares images of cut metal for Lisa Williamson's sculptural installation that will live in the Hospitality Hub staircase. He updates PAOC that she has 400 of about 700 pieces cut and reviews the color palette selected by Hub partners during the artist's community engagement. Echols asks for questions or comments. Jones asks where the space is located, and Echols explains the address referencing its proximity to Juvenile Court. Booker adds that facilities were built as the nonprofit outgrew its space at Calvary Episcopal downtown and shares her excitement for public artwork filling the spaces.

IX. Cordova Library- Final Acceptance

Washington informs PAOC that Tylur French and Youngblood Studios are finalizing the lighting at Cordova Library. Kennedy adds that the lighted sculpture holds true to the proposal and is eager to present the final images to PAOC.

X. Upcoming Contingency Requests

Kennedy introduces the following upcoming contingency requests:

- L.E. Brown Park
Kennedy reviews that the artist, Arnold Thompson, had issues with the original fabricator. UAC has helped him find a good solution, and they are in the process of finalizing a contingency request.
- Orange Mound Park
Because this project has been significantly delayed and the cost of steel has changed dramatically, Kennedy expects a contingency request. More details forthcoming.

XI. Other Project Updates

- Jesse Turner Park- Call to Artists
Kennedy reminds PAOC that this call was reissued nationally and will close August 14th. Smith will update PAOC on the finalists selected. Kennedy explains that while PAOC technically approves artist selections, they generally bless whatever the selection committee decides as they are the ones who put together the call with UAC and review all submissions.
- Hollywood + Vollintine mural
UAC may seek email approval for the artists selected for this mural.
- Art & Environment - Carpenter Art Garden - sculpture park plans underway
- Ed Rice Community Center - in fabrication
- NAI - Westwood - painting in progress (phase 2)
- NAI - Hickory Hill - in fabrication
- Whitehaven Art Club - mural site authorization
- Whitehaven YMCA - in fabrication
- JFK Park- anticipated installation Fall 2023
- Movable Collection
 - Hospitality Hub- in fabrication
 - Movable Collection - call closes Aug 23rd
- Frayser Library- in fabrication
- Frayser Signage - Determining locations (Rodney Baber Park, Frayser Library, North Frayser CDC, and two more TBD)
- Gaisman- photography completed, schematic design on the way

Kennedy asks for any questions on project updates and offers to schedule time with Jen and Kate to provide more details on active projects. She also reminds PAOC to email their current job titles and conflict of interest forms.

Jones asks for information on the Douglass Park mural dedication. Echols clarifies that there will be a back to school event on the 12th that UAC had hoped to join with a dedication and ribbon cutting. However, the artists could not attend, so a separate celebration will be planned for the mural dedication.

Kennedy shares her appreciation for the time and energy PAOC offers to UAC, public art, and artists in Memphis. She thanks everyone saying it has been an honor to work alongside them. PAOC echoes their thanks for her service, and the meeting is adjourned.

Upcoming (Zoom) Meeting Dates @ 1:00 PM:

September 13, 2023

October 11, 2023

November 8, 2023

December 13, 2023